

HUMAN RESOURCES RESEARCH COUNCIL

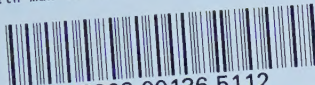
MAY 18 1975

with man in mind

CA2 ALHR
72W 35

CA2 ALHR 1972W35
With Man in Mind.

1



3 3398 00136 5112

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2024 with funding from
Legislative Assembly of Alberta - Alberta Legislature Library

"The time has come for an explicit commitment of private and public energies toward facilitating, to the greatest extent possible, the creative development of every human being in the Province of Alberta," declared a White Paper, published by the Government of Alberta in March, 1967.

"In other words, the time has come for humanitarian values and social concern to be registered in a much more positive way." In expressing this concern "human resources will be treated as being intrinsically more important than physical resources" and "consideration will be given to human beings individually (persons) rather than to human beings collectively (society)."

As a direct result of recommendations contained in the 1967 White Paper, the Alberta Human Resources Research Council was created.

What does a Human Resources Research Council research?

According to the legislation "The objects of the Council are to undertake educational, social, economic and other research relating to and affecting the development and conservation of human resources in Alberta."

In a complex modern society the range of problems open to study is as various as the individuals who live in that society. In terms of

RECEIVED
JAN 11 1972
PREMIER'S OFFICE

the 1967 White Paper, and the specific legislation which created the Alberta Human Resources Research Council, any problem which touches the lives of individuals within Alberta is within the scope of the Council's mandate.

In concept, the Alberta Human Resources Research Council is unique in Canada. No other organization has been established in a formal way to consider the problems of individuals in such a broad and comprehensive context.

Drafting a concept is one thing. Building an organization which will fulfill the promise of that concept is another.

How has the Alberta Human Resources Research Council translated its concept into specific acts and deeds?

What aspects of Alberta society has it chosen to study, and why? What results has it shown so far?

Has its early working experience shown that the ideal underlying the creation of the Council was viable?

At this stage of man's development, do we even know enough to undertake the kind of broad-spectrum studies it was expected the Council would undertake? Is the state-of-the-art in such disciplines as sociology, education, and other people-oriented fields sufficiently

advanced to permit what is normally expected of research? Or should the expectations for research shift when the subjects shift from things to people?

In moving from concept to action, how did the Council proceed, and what has been the result?

As might be expected, the Alberta Human Resources Research Council has not, in its short lifetime, arrived at easy answers to the complex social questions which are currently taxing some of the best minds in the world. But the Council has been successful in developing a practical social research capability which is able to establish carefully documented alternatives for consideration by those who shape social policy.

During its early period the Council undertook studies in the field of education, studies which examined social and economic inequalities, studies of planning and of the future, studies in human behaviour, and studies of the quality of urban life.

Over thirty-five people work full time out of the Council's Edmonton and Calgary offices. Additional research staff work on a full to part-time basis for the Council while technically remaining on the staff of another organization (in almost all cases this arrangement has been

struck to enable the Council to call on the services of senior university research personnel). Individual researchers have been commissioned to undertake specific studies which have further enriched the Council's research capability.

Demographers, sociologists, educational administrators, economists, anthropologists, linguists, town planners, and specialists from a variety of other fields, have contributed to the Council's growing body of basic knowledge and know-how.

Increasingly the Council has focussed its efforts on consolidating and synthesizing data that has emerged from its own studies and from studies undertaken by others. Attention has been directed to the application of a multi-disciplinary approach to the data, an approach which the Council now feels is essential to an in-depth understanding of modern social issues. It is the Council's feeling that the relatively narrow range in which one discipline might perceive a particular social issue is no longer sufficient for the purpose of formulating alternative policies.

By its legislation the Council is empowered to examine issues across a broad social spectrum. Ongoing activities encompass such general areas as education, urbanization, mental

and physical well-being, data collection and storage, the legal system, socio-economic studies, and studies of the future — to name a few.

While a specific project advances within the limits of its own discipline, there is an increasing emphasis at HRRC on examining the inter-relationships between apparently separate social issues. For example: the inter-relationship between educational planning and urban development; or between educational planning, urban development, socio-economic development, and physical and mental well-being.

The common factor in all social research is people. The only justification for substantial expenditures on social research is the potential benefits to people that may accrue through a better understanding of the relationships which are acting to shape the society in which we live.

With greater understanding, there is the possibility of meaningful intervention to promote a society which better meets the declared human needs of the people who make up that society.

The purpose of the Alberta Human Resources Research Council is to deepen this kind of understanding.

The Alberta Human Resources Research Council is a corporation created by the Alberta Legislature. Control of the Council is vested in a ten-man Governing Council appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor. This ten-man group sets policy, specifies the duties and priorities of the Council, and generally oversees the operation of the research agency.

Members of Governing Council are:

Hon. W. Helen Hunley, Chairman, Minister
Without Portfolio

Dr. L. W. Downey, Director, Human
Resources Research Council

Dr. W. E. Beckel, Academic Vice-President,
University of Lethbridge

Mr. H. Bliss, Vice-President, Business &
Finance, University of Calgary

Dr. G. L. Burton, Rancher & Economist,
Claresholm

Dr. T. C. Byrne, President, Athabasca
University

Mrs. Mary K. Green, Canadian Red Cross
Blood Transfusion Service, Calgary

Mr. F. W. Hoskyn, Principal, Collingwood
School, Calgary

Hon. Louis D. Hyndman, Minister of
Education

Dr. Donald R. Wilson, Faculty of Medicine,
University of Alberta

Day-to-day operations of the Council are the responsibility of the Directorate, a three-man management committee consisting of the Director and two Associate Directors.

Members of the Directorate are:

Dr. L. W. Downey — Director of Human Resources Research Council

Dr. E. J. Ingram — Associate Director of Planning and Development Studies

Dr. J. MacMillan — Associate Director of Socio-Economic Studies

The Council maintains two offices — one in Edmonton and one in Calgary.

Further information on the Council's activities may be obtained by writing or phoning:

INFORMATION SERVICES

HUMAN RESOURCES

RESEARCH COUNCIL

11507 — 74 Avenue

Edmonton, Alberta

Canada.

Telephone: 433-2541 (Area code 403)



HUMAN RESOURCES RESEARCH COUNCIL

